

Message Text

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20

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

ORM-01 AID-05 OMB-01 DLOS-04 OES-03 /073 W

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R 282220Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4557

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5888

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, BL, PFOR, PBOR

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN OUTLET TO THE SEA

REFS: A) LA PAZ 5951 B) SANTIAGO 5850

1. SUMMARY: GOC HAS HASTENED TO REASSURE BOLIVIA THAT THERE IS NO NEW LEGAL MOVE ON ITS PART THAT WOULD AFFECT CURRENT DISCUSSIONS OVER BOLIVIAN ACCESS TO SEA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REACTION TO REPORTS OF GREAT GOB CONCERN OVER APPEARANCE OF REVISED TEXT OF CHILEAN NATIONAL SECURITY LAW WHICH CLASSIFIES AS CRIME OFFERING CESSION OF TERRITORY, GOC FON MIN CARVAJAL CALLED IN BOLIVIAN AMB TO CHILE AUGUST 27. ACCORDING TO PROMINENT PRESS REPORTS, CARVAJAL POINTED OUT TO AMB GUTIERREZ THAT PROVISION QUESTIONED DATES FROM OLD LAW (1958) AND APPEARANCE NOW HAS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. BOLIVIAN AMB GAVE PRESS HIS "PERSONAL" OPINION THAT CARVAJAL'S ASSURANCES WERE IN LINE WITH GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES, AND THAT "WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE EX-
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PLANATIONS." HE SAID THAT GOB HAD SEEN TEST CONTAIN-

ING CESSION PROVISIONS BEFORE IT REAPPEARED IN
"DIARIO OFICIAL" AUGUST 26.

3. CARVAJAL ADDED FOR REPORTERS THAT CONVERSATIONS
(ON BOLIVIAN ACCESS TO SEA) CONTINUE NORMALLY AND
THAT GOOD WILL ON PART OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAS NOT
CHANGED.

4. CABLE AGENCY STORIES PUBLISHED AUGUST 28 IN
SANTIAGO INDICATE GOC EMBASSY IN LA PAZ HAS ADDRESSED
SUBJECT IN SAME TERMS AS CARVAJAL DID WITH GOB AMB.

5. BY APPARENT COINCIDENCE, LEADING CHILEAN NEWSPAPER
"EL MERCURIO/ CARRIED EDITORIALS ON AUGUST 20 AND
AUGUST 28 WHICH TOOK NOTABLY TOUGH LINE ON CURRENT NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH GOB OVER ACCESS TO SEA. "EL MERCURIO"
POINTED OUT THAT 1884 AND 1904 TREATIES FIRMLY CLOSED
DOOR TO ANY RIGHT OF GOB TO CLAIM CESSION OF TERRI-
TORY, AND WARNED THAT ANY GOB ATTEMPTS TO PUT DEAD-
LINE ON CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHILE WOULD BE
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

6. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT GOC HAS BEEN TAKEN SOME-
WHAT ABACK BY PROFESSED GOB SURPRISE AND CONCERN OVER
PUBLICATION OF 1958 INTEGRATED TEXT. APPEARS
TO EMBASSY THAT GOB EITHER HAS NOT DONE ITS HOME-
WORK ON WHAT APPARENTLY IS ITS MOST IMPORTANT
FOREIGN POLICY CONCERN OR IT MAY HAVE ENGAGED IN
MANEUVER DESIGNED TO PRESSURE GOC.

7. EMBASSY LA PAZ IN REFTEL MAKES CLEAR THAT GOB
WILL BE SATISFIED ONLY WITH SOVEREIGNTY OVER CORRIDOR
TO SEA. WE BELIEVE THAT GOC IS WILLING TO PAY
CONSIDERABLE PRICE FOR QUIET ON ITS BOLIVIAN FRONT, BUT
IS NOT NOW DISPOSED TO CEDE TERRITORY. NEVERTHELESS, IF THE
PROVISION OF LAW IN QUESTION WERE CONSIDERED A BARRIER TO A
SETTLEMENT THAT CHILE OTHERWISE DESIRED, GOC COULD AMEND IT
OVERNIGHT.
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